

Today I introduced the [NANO Act](#), a comprehensive bill to promote the development and responsible stewardship of nanotechnology in the United States.

The legislation draws upon the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Nanotechnology, a panel of California nanotechnology experts with backgrounds in established industry, startup companies, consulting groups, non-profits, academia, government, medical research, and venture capital that I convened with then-California State Controller Steve Westly during 2005. Nanotechnology has the potential to create entirely new industries and radically transform the basis of competition in other fields, and I am proud of my work with former Science Committee Chairman Sherwood Boehlert on the

[Nanotechnology Research and Development Act](#)

of 2003 to foster research in this area. But one of the things policymakers have heard from experts is that while the United States is a leader in nanotechnology research, our foreign competitors are focusing more resources and effort on the commercialization of those research results than we are. In its report

[Thinking Big About Thinking Small](#)

, the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Nanotechnology made a series of recommendations for ways that the nation can promote the development and commercialization of nanotechnology, a number of which are included in the NANO Act.

- create a **public-private investment partnership** to address the nanotechnology commercialization gap
- establish a tax credit for **investment in nanotechnology firms**
- authorize a grant program to support the establishment and development of **nanotechnology incubators**
- establish a **Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center** for “nano-CAD” tools
- establish **grant programs for nanotechnology research** to address specific challenges in the areas of energy, environment, homeland security, and health
- establish a tax credit for **nanotechnology education and training** program expenses
- establish a grant program to support the development of **curriculum materials** for interdisciplinary nanotechnology courses at higher education institutions
- direct NSF to establish a program to encourage manufacturing companies to enter into partnerships with occupational training centers for the development of **training to support nanotechnology manufacturing**
- call for the development of a strategy for **increasing interaction on nanotechnology interests** between DOE national labs and the informal science education community.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Science and Technology Committee to incorporate these provisions as we work to reauthorize the nation’s nanotechnology research and development program.